

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 /057 W
-----111834Z 009808 /44

P 111518Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4861
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: RABIN-PERES: PRIME MINISTER INDICATES POST ELECTION
CHANGES

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ADDRESSING LABOR PARTY MEMBERS AT A MEETING IN
TEL AVIV, PRIME MINISTR RABIN SAID THAT HE EXPECTED TO
REPLACE SOME CABINET MINISTERS IF HE IS RE-ELECTED.
DECLINING TO SPECIFY NAMES HE SAID, "YOU CAN'T TELL A
COLLEAGUE, 'U'LL REPLACE YOU IN HALF A YEARS' TIME'
AND CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER." ACCORDING TO THE JERUSALEM
POST RABIN WENT ON TO DEFEND HIS CABINET, SAYING "A
PRIME MINISTER SHOULD KNOW TO HELP A MEMBER WHEN HE'S
ATTACKED FOR THE WAY HE PERFORMS HIS DUTIES, OTHERWISE
ALL TALK OF TEAMWORK AND FRIENDSHIP IS MERELY EMPTY
WORDS. WHEN THIS CABINET WAS FORMED BY FREEDOM (TO
SELECT MY MINISTERS) WAS LIMITED. I HOPE IT WILL
BE DIFFERENT IN THE FUTURE. BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE
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A PRIME MINISTER, WHOEVER HE MAY BE, WHO WON'T HAVE
TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ASSURING REPRESENTATION FOR
SUCH GROUPS AS WOMEN, COMMUNITIES, DEVELOPMENT TOWNS,
ETC. END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. COMMENT: FOR THE TIME BEING RABIN HAS APPARENTLY REJECTED ADVICE TO COUNTER HIS RIVAL'S "NEW LOOK" IMAGE BY REMINDING HIS LABOR PARTY COLLEAGUES THAT PERES, FAR FROM REPRESENTING A CHANGE, HAS BEEN IN EVERY GOVERNMENT SINCE THE 60'S INCLUDING, OF COURSE, THE YOM KIPPUR WAR GOVERNMENT. IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF ISSUES SEPARATING RABIN AND PERES THEIR CONTEST HAS BEEN REMARKABLY FREE OF PERSONAL ATTACK. SUCH RESTRAINT HAS BEEN A SALIENT PART OF PERES' STRATEGY--PORTRAYING HIMSELF AS CALM, ASSURED, AND DIGNIFIED IN CONTRAST TO RABIN'S RELATIVE LACK OF POISE. RABIN HAS ALSO PLAYED THIS GAME BUT MAY GO ALL OUT AT THE CONVENTION PLENARY ON FEBRUARY 23 WHEN EACH CANDIDATE WILL ADDRESS THE DELEGATES PRIOR TO THE BALLOTING.

3. WITH THE CONVENTION LESS THAN TWO WEEKS OFF, MOST OBSERVERS STILL REFUSE TO CALL THE RACE, ALTHOUGH A FEW ARE NOW VENTURING A HESITANT GUESS. ONE SUCH OBSERVER IS MAARIV COLUMNIST MOSHE MEISELS. A RABIN SUPPORTER, MEISELS HAS TOLD US THAT THE RACE WILL BE VERY CLOSE BUT HE HAS A HUNCH THAT RABIN HAS A SLIGHT LEAD. MEISELS BELIEVES THAT THIS LEAD NARROWED CONSIDERABLY IN RECENT DAYS WITH THE ANNOUNCED SUPPORT OF PERES BY ABBA EBAN, UZI BAR AM AND YASSI SARID. SUPPORT OF PERES BY SUCH WELL-KNOWN DOVES "LEGITIMIZES" PERES' CANDIDACY FOR MODERATE ELEMENTS IN THE PARTY DESPITE HIS HAWKISH IMAGE AND HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE RELATIVELY HAWKISH RAFI FACTION. LIKUD LEADER BEGIN TOLD THE CHARGE THAT HE ALSO THOUGHT RABIN WAS PROBABLY A LITTLE AHEAD. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPLYING TO A QUESTION, BEGIN SAID HE THOUGHT LIKUD WOULD DO BETTER IN THE ELECTION AGAINST A LABOR PARTY LED BY RABIN THAN AGAINST ONE LED BY PERES. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
DUNNIGAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, ELECTION FORECASTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV01070
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770049-1141
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770248/aaaabqfp.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c9146ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3336785
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RABIN-PERES: PRIME MINISTER INDICATES POST ELECTION CHANGES BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PINT, IS, (RABIN, YITZHAK), (PERES, SHIMON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c9146ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009